

IRISH SALMON FISHERIES.

RETURN showing the relative values of SALMON FISHERIES in IRELAND
privately owned, and of those fished by men working a public
fishery on their common law rights.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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RETURN showing the relative values of SALMON FISHERIES in IRELAND privately owned, and of those fished by men working a public fishery on their common law rights.

The Department of Agriculture (Ireland) have not at their disposal sufficient information to form an accurate estimate of the relative values of salmon fisheries privately owned, and of those fished by men working public fisheries on their common law rights; but they consider the value of the former to be about £46,000 a year, while the nett earnings of the men engaged in the latter would be about double that amount.

The following is the basis on which these Estimates are founded:—

1. Regarding the privately-owned Salmon Fisheries: the only basis on which an estimate of their value can be formed, is the fact that nearly all of them are valued by the Valuation Office for rating purposes.

Their total valuation is £23,105, and it may safely be presumed that this is well below their actual average annual value to their proprietors.

However, the latter should not exceed the former by more than 100 per cent., so that probably £46,000 is the outside actual annual value of Private Salmon Fisheries in Ireland.

2. Turning to the value of the public right of salmon fishing exercised in tidal waters around the coast, it is still more difficult to form an estimate of what the fishermen earn, after paying the expenses of boats, nets, licenses, &c., which nett earnings give the only figure which can be fairly used in making a comparison with the nett annual value of private fisheries.

Information on the point has been received from all the Fishery Districts, and a careful estimate leads to the conclusion that these nett earnings amounted to £85,289 in 1901 (which was a bad year), or nearly double the outside value of the private fisheries.

Of course the addition of these two sums together gives no indication of the value of the Salmon Fisheries to the country at large, as it would not include in the one case the outlay in wages, &c., necessary to earn the profit, nor in the other case, the outlay on nets, boats, and gear necessarily paid before a living wage can be earned.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is, having regard to the information at the disposal of the Department, correct.

WM. SPOTSWOOD GREEN,
Chief Inspector (Fisheries Branch.)

T. P. GILL,
Secretary.

Department of Agriculture
and Technical Instruction for Ireland,
17th June, 1902.